



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Office of the General Counsel
P. O. Box 5400
Albuquerque, NM 87185



April 24, 2019

VIA EMAIL: 69923-30392651@requests.muckrock.com

Mr. Martin Pfeiffer
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 69923
411A Highland Ave
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

Dear Mr. Pfeiffer:

This letter is the final response to your February 26, 2019, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for the following:

“Related to the May 27, 1957 B36 release of a Mk17 nuclear weapon near Albuquerque, NM: communications, photographs, reports, memos, and other records resulting from or related to documenting the accident; investigation of the accident; recovery of materials from the accident site; clean-up of the site; characterization of recovered materials and those remaining at the site; associated discussions of the MK17 safety features; and communications with the Air Force or AEC about the incident.”

Your request was received in this office on February 26, 2019. We contacted the Sandia Field Office (SFO) regarding your request. SFO asked National Technology & Engineering Solutions of Sandia, LLC (NTESS), the M&O Contractor for Sandia National Lab, to search for records. NTESS searched the following departments seeking responsive documentation: a) Corporate Archives, b) Customer Funded Record Center, and c) the Technical Library. Corporate Archives searched electronically on digital archives (including the Lab News archive) on the SRN and the SCN; the Corporate Archives section of the CSandia (the corporate digital image repository on the SRN); and Corporate Archives Still Photo Collection digital image archive on the SCN. Corporate Archives also searched the physical holdings in inactive records storage, on databases; EIMS FileNet (for Corporate Archives digital repositories on the SRN and SCN) and Versatile software (for Corporate Archives physical holdings in corporate inactive records storage).

An electronic search of EIMs and Versatile/Inactive Storage for metadata, titles, user assign codes, contact name and project CMPC shared collaborative drive and space was conducted by the Customer Funded Records Center (CFRC). CFRC also searched the classified and unclassified sides of the Classification online repositories. The Technical Library searched electronically on the SRN and SCN Library Catalogs for metadata in the bibliographic databases.

The aforementioned databases and catalogs were searched using a variation of keywords. Each variation of a keyword was searched by itself and in combination with the other key words as

stated in the FOIA request. Specifically, “B36; B-36; MK 17; MK17; accident; incident; 1/1/1957 – 1/1/1958; B36 Release of a Mk17 Nuclear Weapon; B36 Release; MK17 Nuclear Weapon; MK17 Safety Features; MK17 Communications; MK17 Photographs; MK17 Reports; MK17 Memos; MK 17 Records; B36 Communications; B36 Photographs; B36 Reports; B36 Memos; B36 Records; Kirtland; May 27; and 1957. No responsive records were located.

Lastly, you should consider reaching out to the Air Force for assistance if you haven’t already done so. The Air Force provided the aircraft that transported the Mk17 on May 27, 1957 and may have documents on the topic. We hope this helps in your search for responsive documentation.

You may appeal our inability to locate responsive records within 90 calendar days from your receipt of this letter pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 1004.8. Appeals should be addressed to Director, Office of Hearings and Appeals, HG-1, L’Enfant Plaza, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585-1615. The written appeal, including the envelope, must clearly indicate that a FOIA appeal is being made. You may also submit your appeal to OHA.filings@hq.doe.gov, including the phrase “Freedom of Information Appeal” in the subject line (This is the method preferred by the Office of Hearings and Appeals). The appeal must contain all of the elements required by 10 C.F.R. § 1004.8, including a copy of the determination letter. Thereafter, judicial review will be available to you in the Federal District Court either: 1) in the district where you reside; 2) where you have your principal place of business; 3) where DOE’s records are situated; or 4) in the District of Columbia.

There are no charges to you for processing your FOIA request.

If you have questions about the processing of this request, please contact Christina Hamblen via e-mail at christina.hamblen@nnsa.doe.gov or write to the address at the top of the first page. Please reference Control Number FOIA 19-00118-H.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John E. Weckerle".

John E. Weckerle
Authorizing and Denying Official